



REGIONAL NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MOUNTAIN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE
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USDA to Conduct Survey on the Environmental Impacts of Cropland Conservation Practices

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is gearing up to conduct a survey of on-farm agronomic and conservation across the continental U.S. The 2015 National Resources Inventory Conservation Effects Assessment Project (NRI-CEAP) is being conducted by NASS under a cooperative agreement with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). NRCS's project goal is to measure the environmental benefits associated with implementation and installation of conservation practices on cultivated and non-cultivated cropland.

NASS will provide information collected through this survey to NRCS to assess the environmental impacts of on-farm conservation practices. Monitoring the environmental effects of conservation implementation helps policy makers and program managers evaluate and modify existing programs, and design new programs that serve producers and more effectively meet the conservation goals established by Congress.

The data collected will be used by NRCS as input to physical process models. The resulting report will document conservation effects in terms of outcomes such as cleaner water and soil quality enhancements, and will provide the science base needed by policymakers and managers for conservation planning, policy, practice implementation, and management decisions.

Representatives of NASS will collect data between July 2015 and February 2016 by personal interviews with approximately 24,000 operators nationwide and 1,900 operators in the Mountain Region. Enumerators collect field-level, land management data on all activities conducted during the 2013-2015 crop years. This includes such information as chemical, fertilizer and manure applications and production, irrigation practices, integrated pest management, conservation practices, and other management activities.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only aggregate data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified by anyone or any other agency.

For more information or questions about the CEAP survey visit www.nass.usda.gov. For state specific questions please contact:

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NASS provides accurate, timely, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. We invite you to provide occasional feedback on our products and services. Sign up at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/subscriptions> and look for "NASS Data User Community."

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